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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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31 May 1978

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31 May 1978

Security Surrounding the World Cup Soccer Games in Argentina

Unconfirmed rumors and reports regarding planned terrorist acts against the World Cup Soccer Games continue to surface. Some rumors concern two Japanese who were seen in Buenos Aires in mid-May and who have been identified by witnesses from photographs as members of the Japanese Red Army. Argentine officials have begun large-scale investigations to track down the two Japanese; photos have been provided to airport and other police in Buenos Aires. Despite the reported sightings and the subsequent investigation, Argentine authorities do not believe that there is a serious JRA threat to the soccer games, primarily because of the likely adverse publicity resulting from a JRA operation in which innocent soccer fans could become involved. Other rumors have indicated that German terrorists and various Latin exiles intend to disrupt the games through propaganda and terrorist operations. The Argentine government claims that the Montonero terrorist organization is particularly determined to denigrate Argentine national prestige during the 1-25 June soccer festivities. (See the issue of 26 April.)

In reaction to these reports of planned terrorist activities, the West German and French governments, according to press reports, ordered armed members of commando groups and security forces to accompany their national soccer teams while in Argentina. The Argentine government, proud of its extensive security efforts and precautions, responded by instructing its delegations in Bonn and Paris to present formal notes to the respective foreign ministries reiterating the terms of the notices previously sent concerning the security and protection of official teams and delegations during the event. In those notices, the Argentine government stated that no one bearing arms of any kind would be allowed to enter the country. Such actions would not only be against Argentine law but would be considered totally unacceptable. The government asserted that protection of the official teams and delegations is the sole responsibility of the Argentine security forces. In addition, the Argentine government asked the West German and French governments to

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help as much as possible to dispel the intensive campaigns against Argentina's prestige which have been developing in those countries recently.

As part of its extensive effort to control the situation, in late May the Argentine government warned press agencies against any voluntary or involuntary involvement with subversion. The warning was directed at a meeting of members of the national and international press in Argentina who had been invited to Casa Rosada, the Argentine white house. During the meeting, the spokesman also read a document sourced to the Montonero terrorist organization in which the names and addresses of numerous press representatives were listed; it also contained instructions for preparation and delivery of anti-government propaganda to be used during the games. The government spokesman said that the mere fact their names and addresses were listed in a Montonero document did not constitute involvement with subversives but warned the press not to become unwitting instruments of subversive propaganda.

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TERRORIST THREATS AND PLANS

the threats listed are considered sufficiently plausible to warrant alertness and the use of protective security measures. However, terrorist groups often discuss general intentions or make tentative plans for violent acts that they never succeed in carrying out. In nearly all the cases listed, the intended target and appropriate governments have been informed of the threat.

** Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

I. Western Hemisphere, Including the United States

Target: World Cup Soccer Games

Place: Argentina

Date: 1-25 June 1978

** The World Cup Soccer Games begin in Buenos Aires on 1 June and will continue through 25 June at various sites in Argentina. There have been numerous threats of demonstrations and attacks to be carried out during the games. Argentine officials have increased security at the locations of the games for participants, spectators and press. Security at airports, stadiums, and TV studios in cities where matches are to be held is being augmented by a specially trained security force.

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